

the highest cumulative score during the first 2 days of the national finals. These 22 outstanding young people competed against 49 other classes from throughout the Nation and demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional democracy.

We the People...the Citizen and the Constitution features an intensive curriculum which provides students with an in-depth understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the principles and values they embody. The program is designed to promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our constitutional democracy.

I would like to individually congratulate: Paul Ainsworth, Colin Ard, Farnoush Athari, Nichole Best, Jessica Brolick, Daniel Chapel, John Delap, Sheri Delp, Jennifer Eugster, Michael Fecteau, Jennifer Fisher, Hermon Ghermay, Lesley Harrington Lisa Miller, Brain Moynihan, Matthew Ripplinger, John Rutherford, Hope Shea, Shannon Trelease-Smith, Erica Vaughan, Lanna Venturino, and their teacher Lynn D. Stewart.

Mr. Speaker, these students and their teacher are exemplary scholars and I am proud to recognize their accomplishments. Keep up the good work Boulder City High School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, due to severe thunderstorms, I was unavoidably detained and missed one recorded vote on May 21, 1996. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll No. 180, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 436, a resolution providing the rule for consideration of H.R. 3415, a bill to repeal the 4.3 cent increase in transportation motor fuels excise tax. I request that this appear in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DEDICATION OF MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY'S ASPIN CENTER FOR GOVERNMENT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate the grand opening and dedication of the building which houses the Les Aspin Center for Government, a Marquette University program with a now permanent base in Washington, DC.

Beginning as a single Marquette University student internship in 1987, the Les Aspin Center for Government is now a permanent presence in our Nation's Capitol, with world-wide studies and exchange programs, offering a hands-on approach to Government service and possible career opportunities.

Throughout his distinguished career, from 11 terms as Congressman from Wisconsin's First Congressional District to his dedicated service as U.S. Secretary of Defense, Les

Aspin was a statesman in the truest sense of the word, oftentimes putting the needs and concerns of this country, and of all Americans, above his own.

With this in mind, I challenge the Les Aspin Center for Government, in particular, and Marquette University, as a whole, to educate, prepare, and train its young scholars in the true meaning of statesmanship, following the grand example of Les Aspin.

It is also with sadness that I stand before you today, Mr. Speaker. Just as Les Aspin began his professional career at Marquette University as an economics professor, he also completed his career at the university, dying unexpectedly shortly after accepting a new and exciting position as a distinguished professor of international policy.

It is therefore quite fitting that the Aspin family and Marquette University has chosen to rename the center in his memory. I only wish he were here with us to join in the festivities.

STATEMENT BY ALISON CARPENTER REGARDING CHILD ABUSE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by Alison Carpenter, a high school student from Brattleboro, VT, who was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

Children suffer at the hands of adults. They are beaten, kicked and burned with cigarettes. They are thrown against walls, scalded by hot water, forced to stand in freezing showers until they pass out, and thrown into running washing machines. They are sexual molested; they are the victims of incest. Child abuse is a serious issue that has existed throughout history, and it is a major concern in our society today. It was not until recently that it was recognized as a medical and social problem.

Child abuse takes many forms: it occurs whenever an adult inflicts intentional physical, emotional or sexual harm to a child. There are many steps that are being taken to prevent all three forms of child abuse, but it will take a long time to fully eliminate it. The most common form of abuse on children is physical abuse. There are approximately 200 cases of physical abuse for every one that is reported, according to the National Committee for the Protection of Child Abuse. A child is the victim of physical violence even if the anger is not directly inflicted on him or her. A witness to violence is a victim of violence. Children who witness abuse at home can suffer in unseen ways. Quite often, their pain goes untreated; they can suffer serious emotional damage.

Children need a large amount of emotional support from their families. Some elements of emotional support include: respecting the child's needs, tolerating his or her feelings, and a willingness to learn from their behavior. Our emotions are one of our basic powers. Emotional abuse is form of psychological battering. A child's earliest needs in life are for a warm, loving person to be there, to mirror, echo and affirm them. Children need to be prized, and applauded during their growth achievement. If they do not get this, they will do whatever they can in order to. These are basic needs. Children need to be al-

lowed to feel, and to express what they feel. If a child is controlled compulsively, he or she will become an adult with a compulsive, controlling and immature childish side. Some forms of emotional abuse are yelling, belittling, criticizing, humiliating and comparing a child.

Incest, or sexual abuse, is the most shameful of any form of violence, because it involves the betrayal of a supposed loved one. It leaves a long-term effect on the child, believing it was their fault. It is a violation of the child's sexuality. Some people believe that children may simply imagine episodes of sexual abuse. An argument that is made by psychologists, is that a young child who has not been molested, has not had the experience of with sex to be capable of imagining such an experience.

The profile of an abuser tends to be very similar in all forms of child abuse. An abuser is usually someone who has a poor self-image; someone who lacks sensitivity to others' feelings. A person who abuses was most likely abused themselves, or was deprived of basic parenting. An abuser has usually had unmet needs for love or comfort, and is in denial about his or her feelings. Child abuse has a tremendous impact on victims throughout their entire lives. They tend to feel helpless and out of control. The victims tend to dissociate from all of their memories, and begin to feel a sense of unreality. They may have recurring nightmares, sleep disorders or flashbacks. As they get older, they tend to develop split or multiple personalities. They have little or no interest in anything, trouble completing thought processes, confusion, and no trust. A girl who has been abused sexually grows up to believe that she cannot escape being battered. A boy who has been abused may believe in male supremacy. Boy victims, more than girls, identify with the offenders, and sometimes become offenders. This bonding with abusers is a way to overcome the feeling of helplessness and powerlessness.

There are many actions that are being taken against child abuse. Forty-nine States (except for Wyoming), have established children's trust funds. All of the States have a Child Protective Service system, which is a government system that is responsible for investigating reports of child abuse or neglect. This, however, lacks the resources needed to respond to overwhelming number of reports. All States also have a child abuse reporting law, requiring reports of suspected abuse to be made by specified professionals, or others whose work brings them in regular contact with children. There are also family preservation services, that are working to make it so the child can remain with his or her family as long as his safety is not endangered. Private organizations, such as Mothers Against Raping Children and Mothers of Sexually Abused Infants and Children serve as support groups, and fight for the rights of children. We Can Help Ourselves is another organization that teaches children how to handle abusive situations.

There are still many things that need to be done to help prevent the abuse of children. States need to provide even more services for victims of abuse. They need to look at the quality of foster care, because it needs to be more than just giving a child a place to live. People need to be more alert to possible child abuse cases, and to report them to the authorities. Those in a position of authority need to investigate quickly and accurately, and take the first steps to remove children from abusive situations. We need to bring offenders to court, and most of all, we need to stop abusing our children.

Bringing a child into the world is a huge responsibility, that two people make and